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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for gas analysis can include continuously diverting a portion of drilling fluid into a sample chamber from a drilling fluid stream, creating a bidirectional drilling fluid circulation to liberate gas from the drilling fluid, applying a suction to a gas capturing chamber, and allowing a sample of the liberated fluid to continuously flow through the gas capturing chamber, continuously be filtered, and continuously flow into a gas analyzer. The method can include maintaining the sample chamber in an open configuration or decompressing the gas capturing chamber by closing off one or more sample inlets and sample outlets and exhausting portions of the liberated fluid that do not flow to the gas analyzer. The method can include simultaneously providing analysis data to client devices.

21 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets

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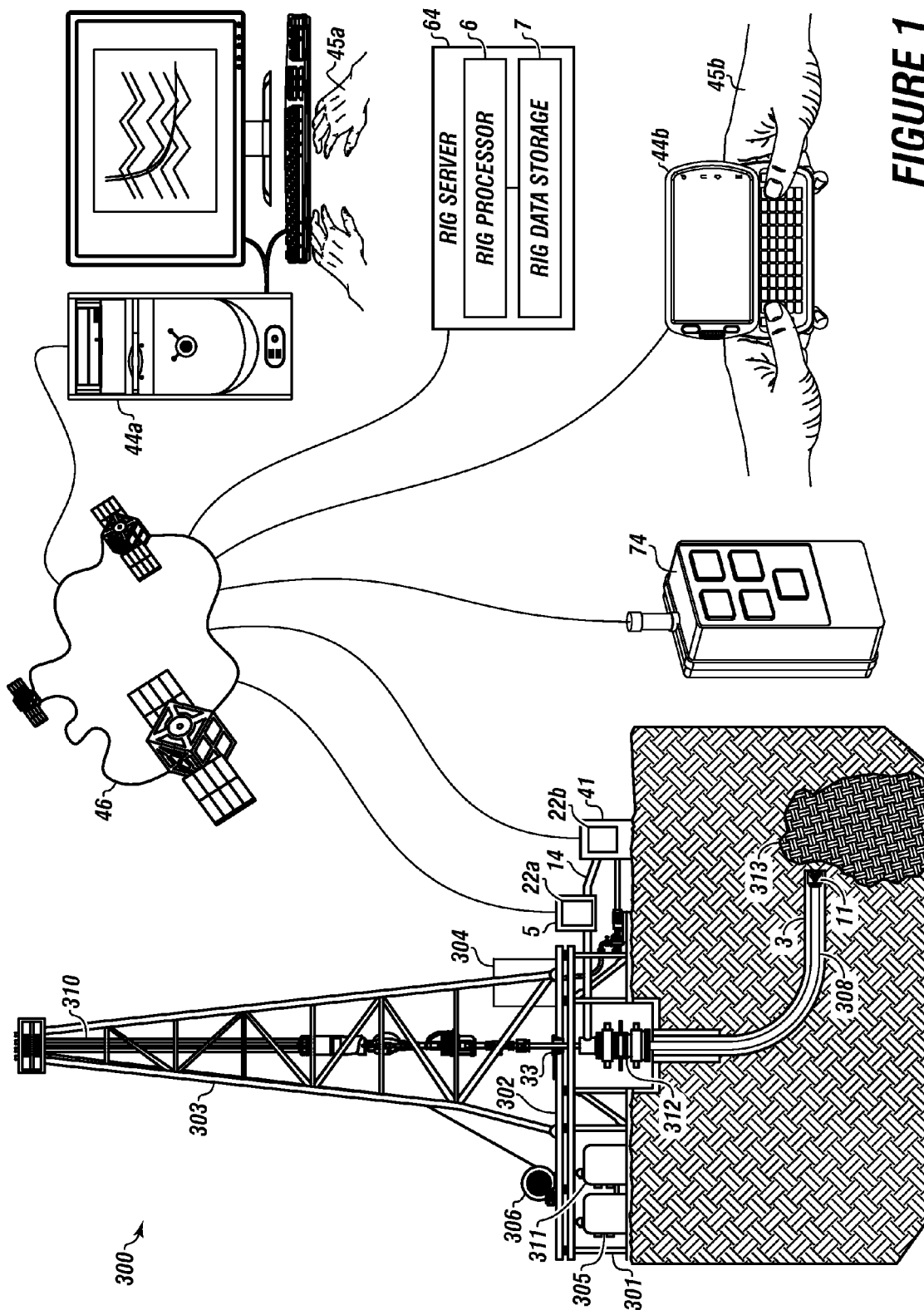
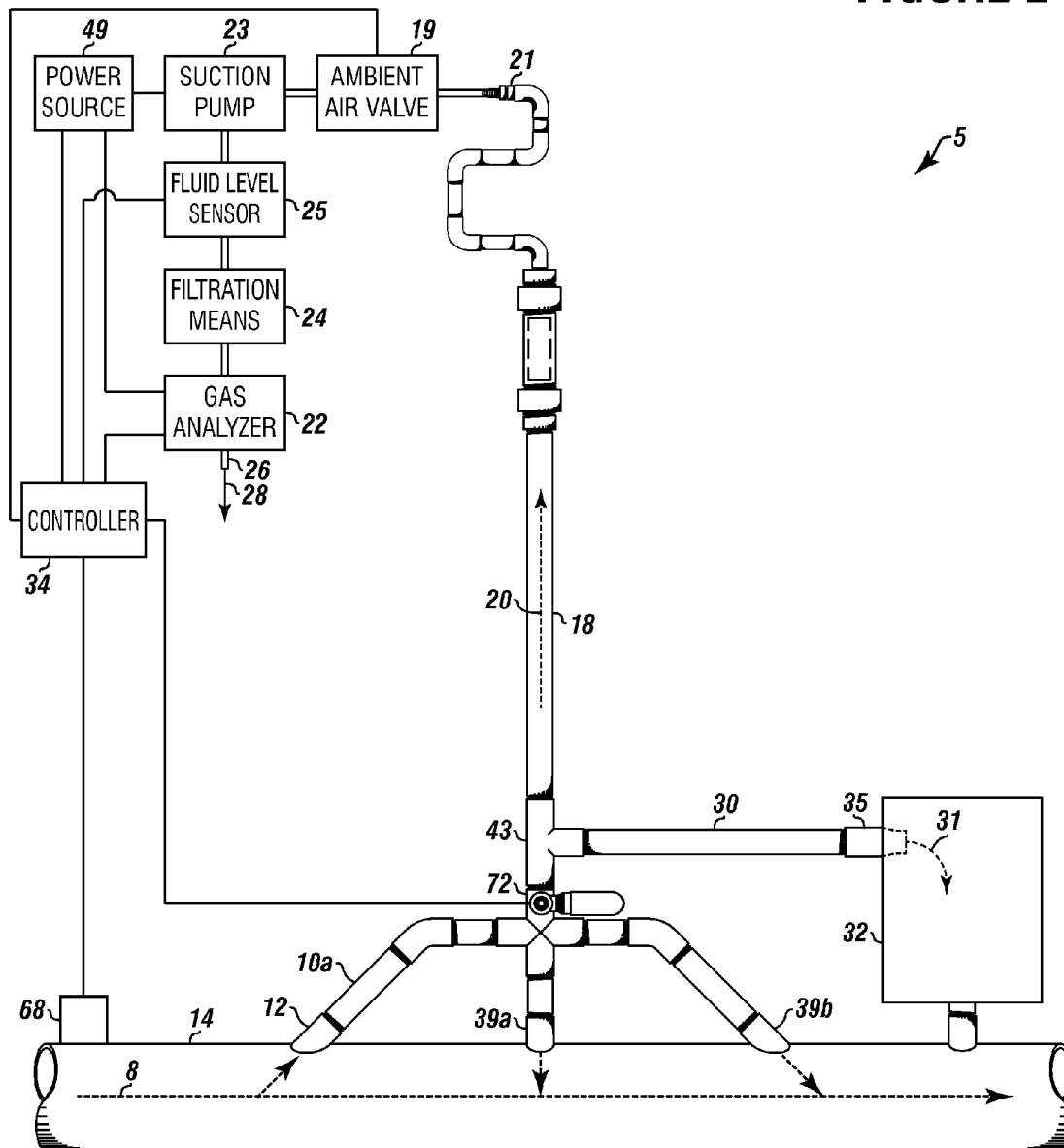


FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2



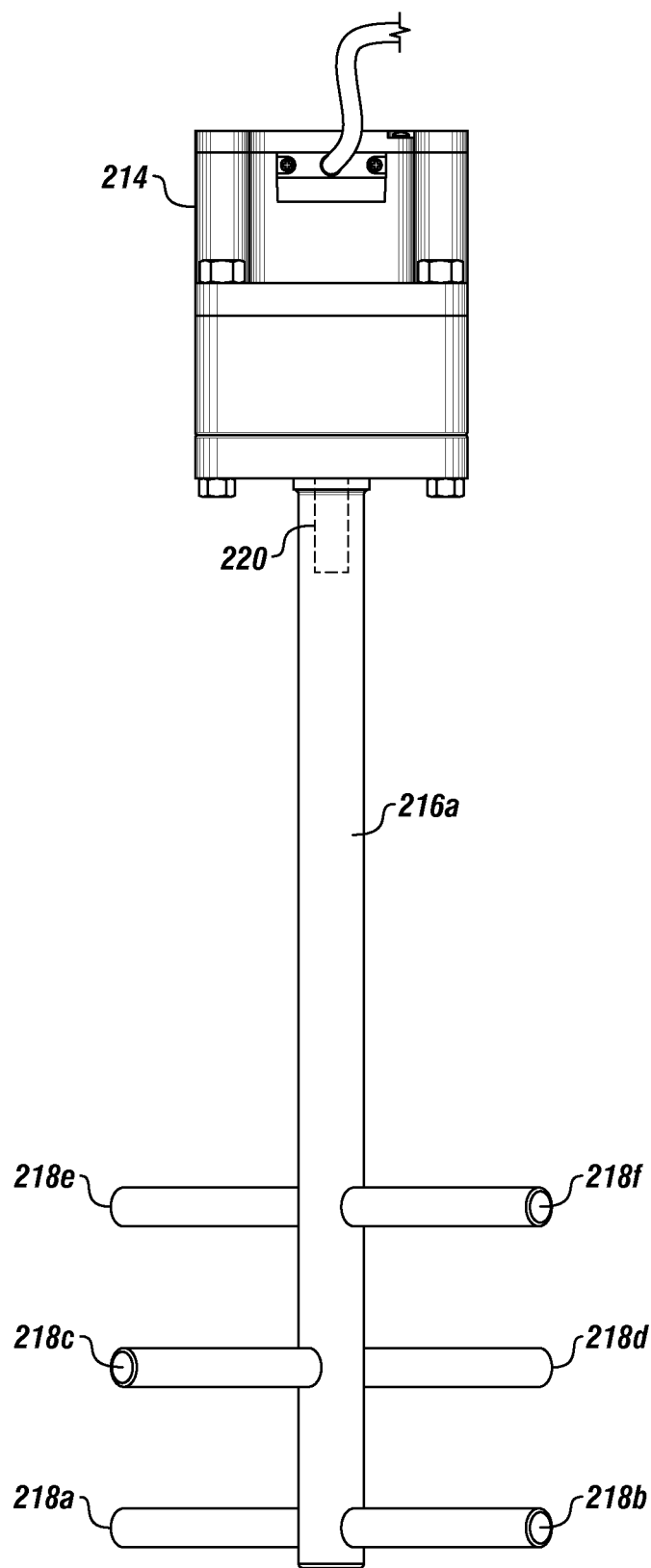


FIGURE 4A

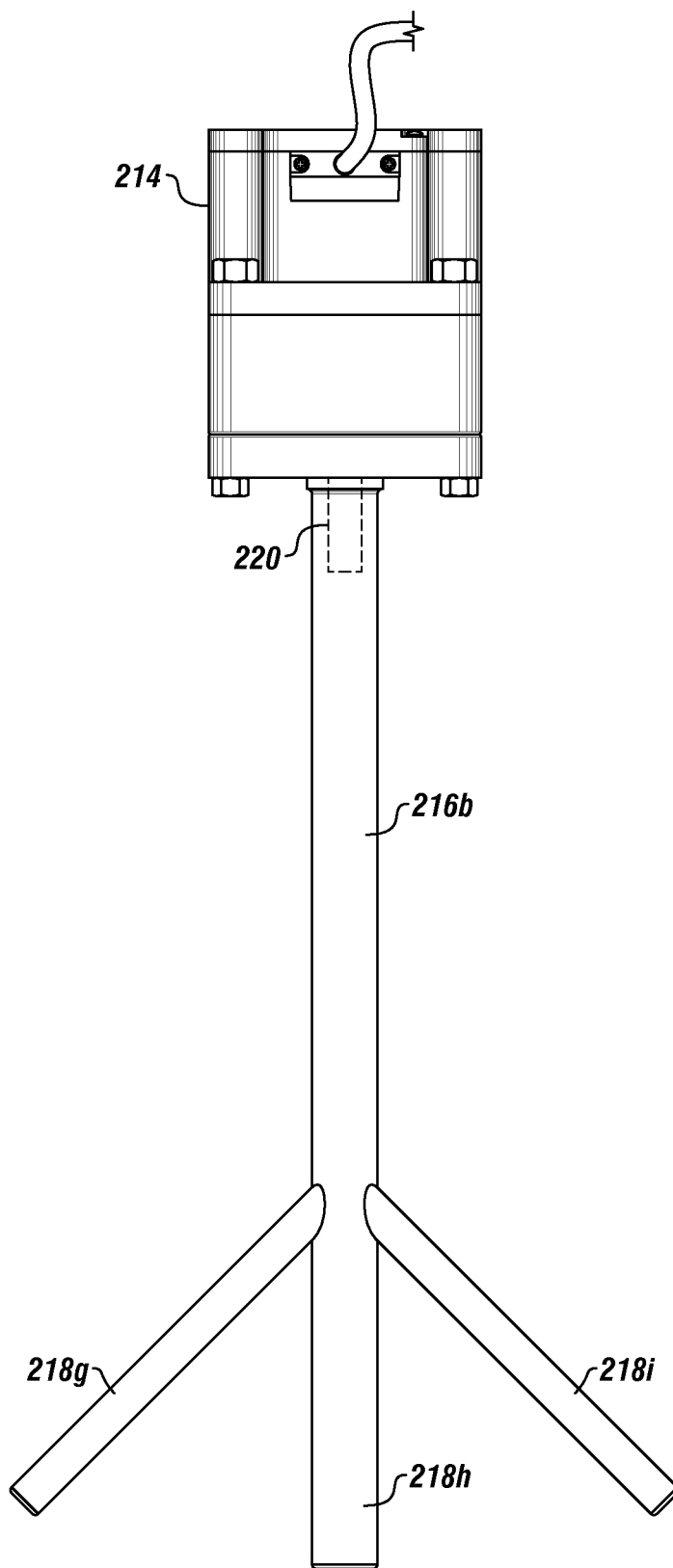


FIGURE 4B

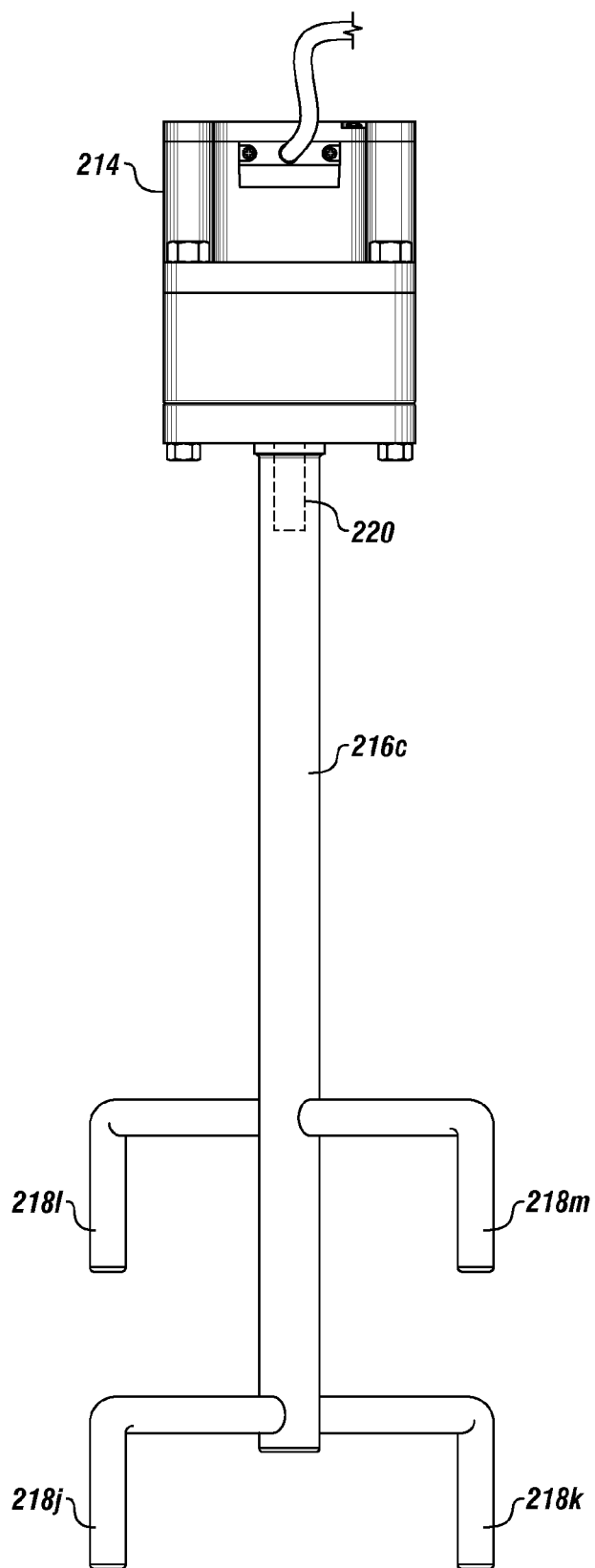


FIGURE 4C

FIGURE 5

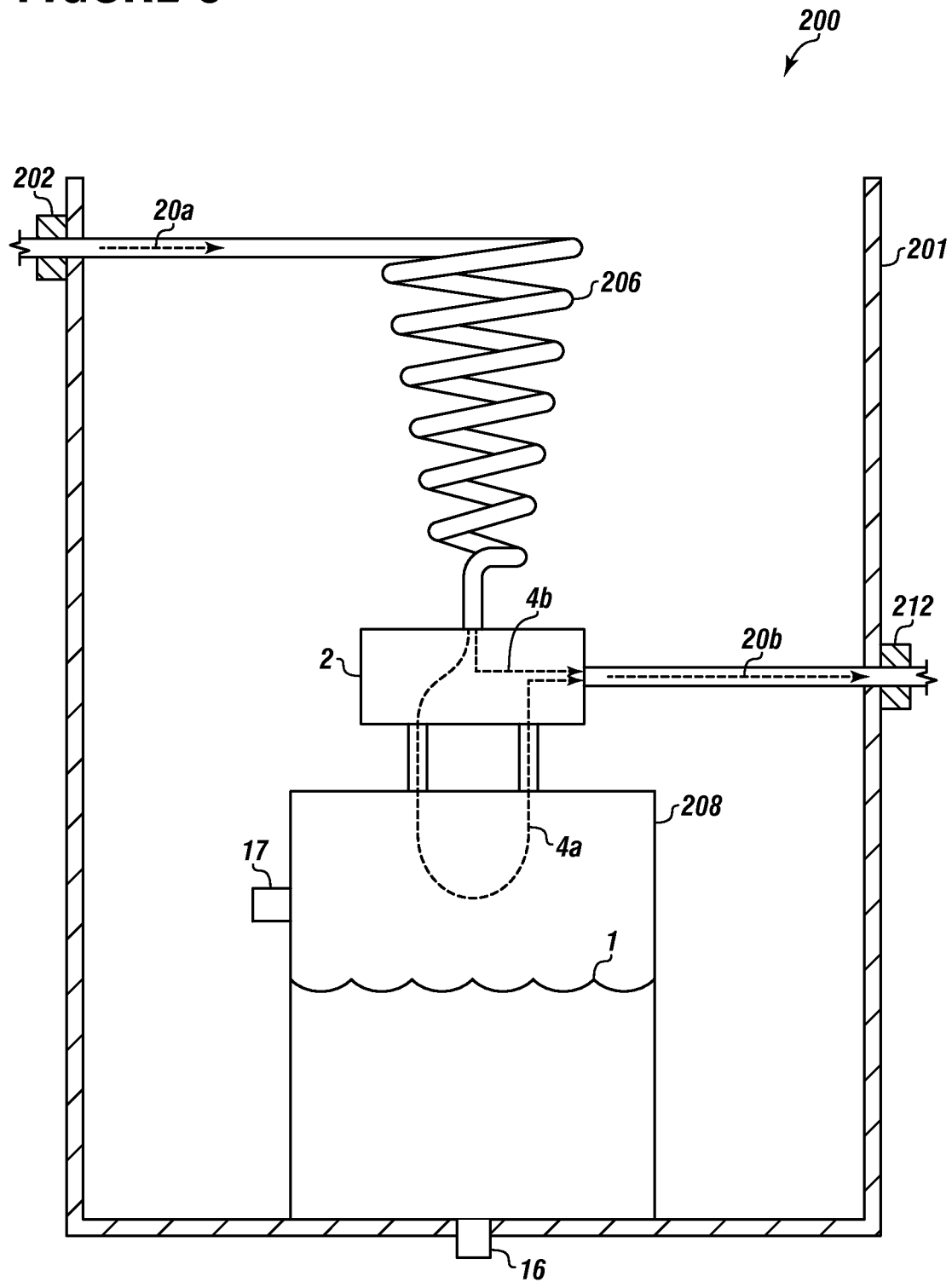
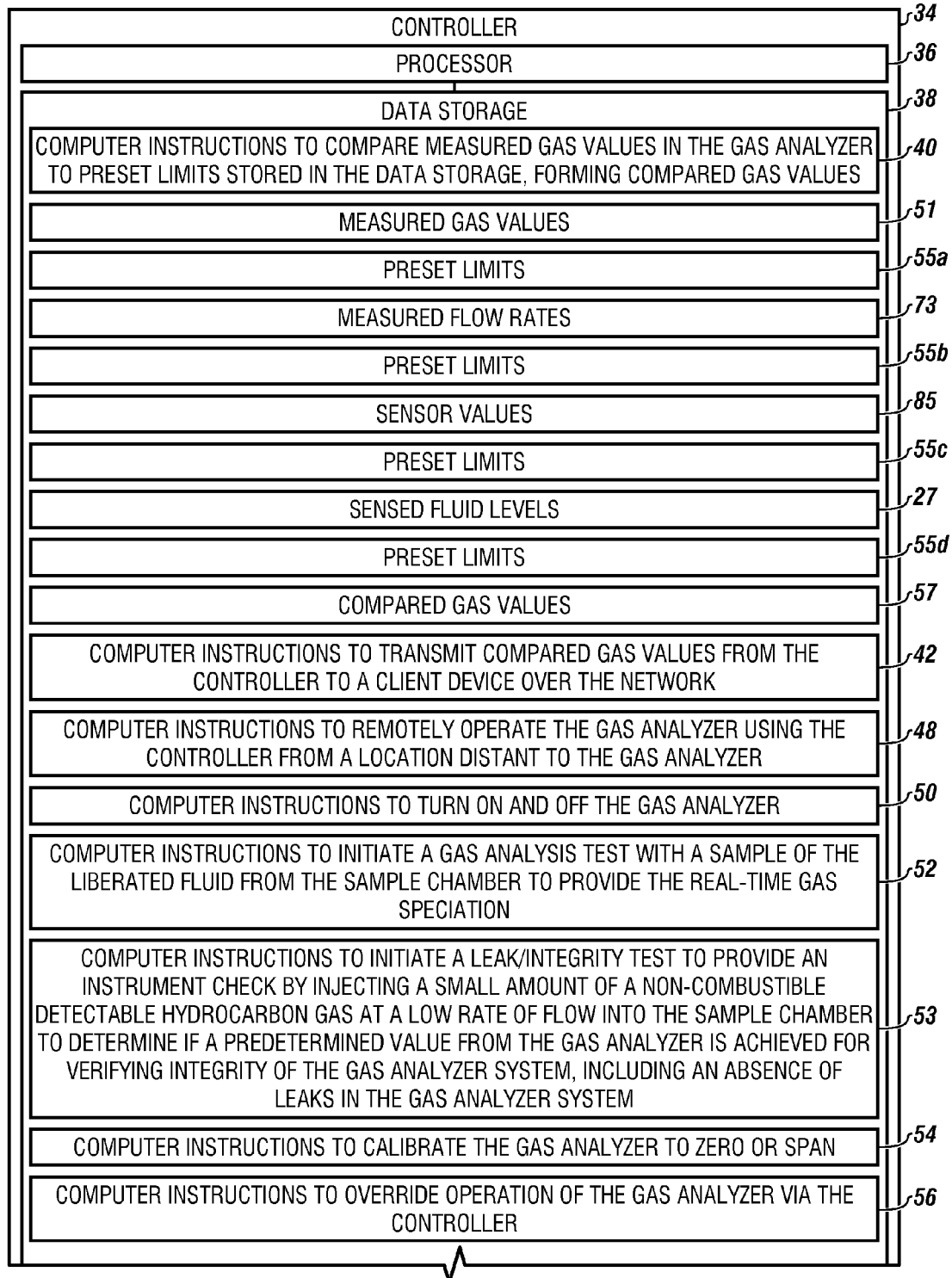


FIGURE 6A

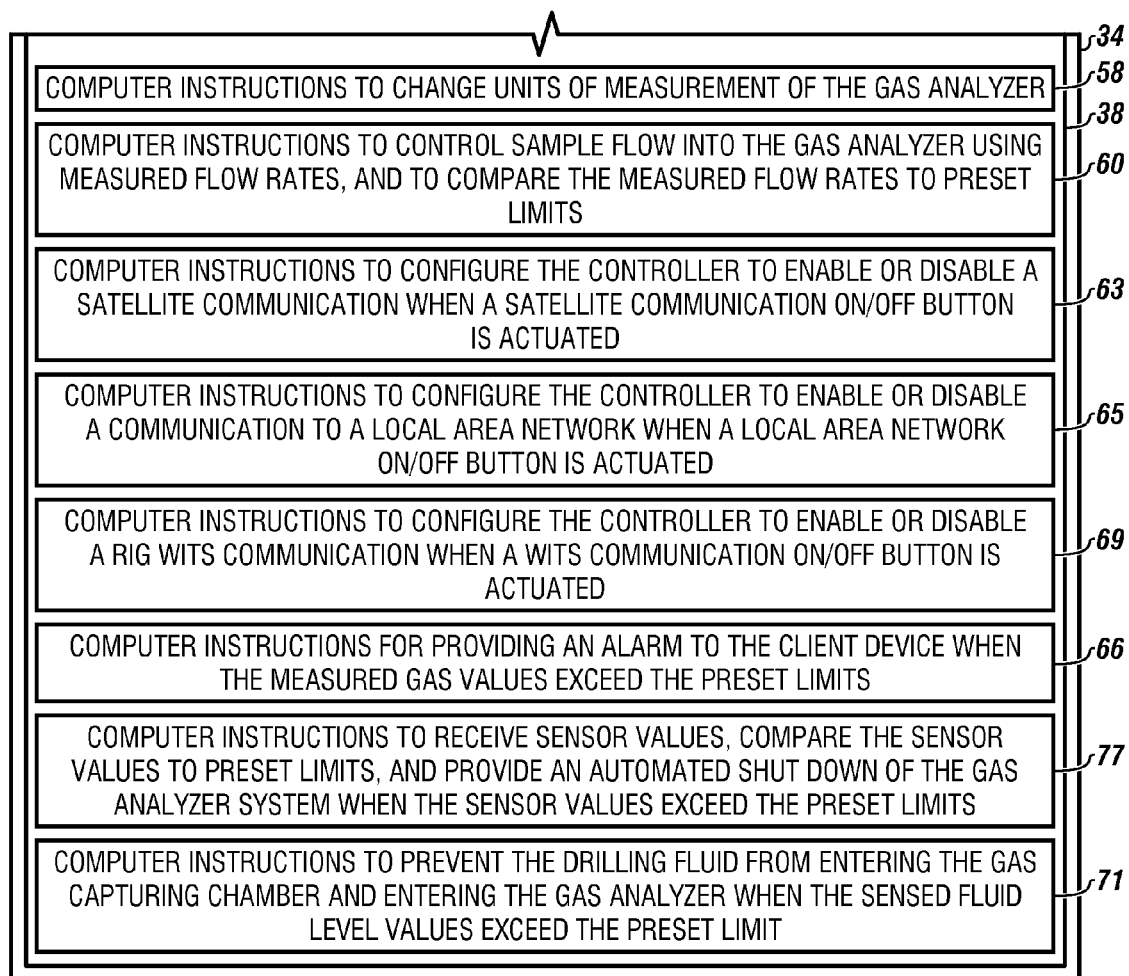
**FIGURE 6B**

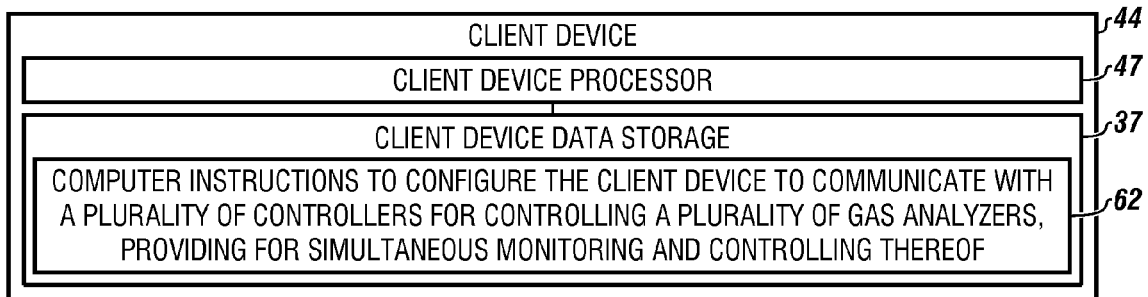
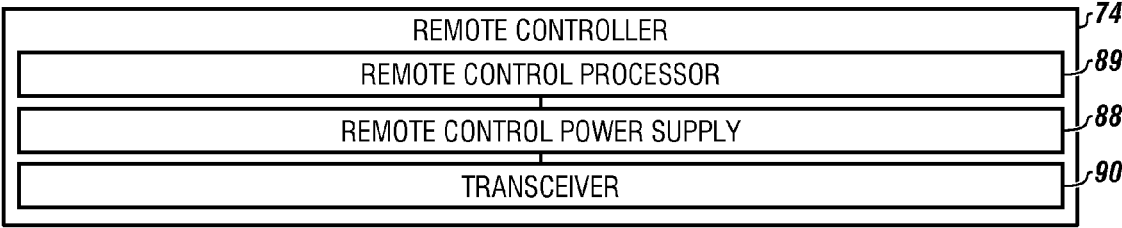
FIGURE 7

FIGURE 8A



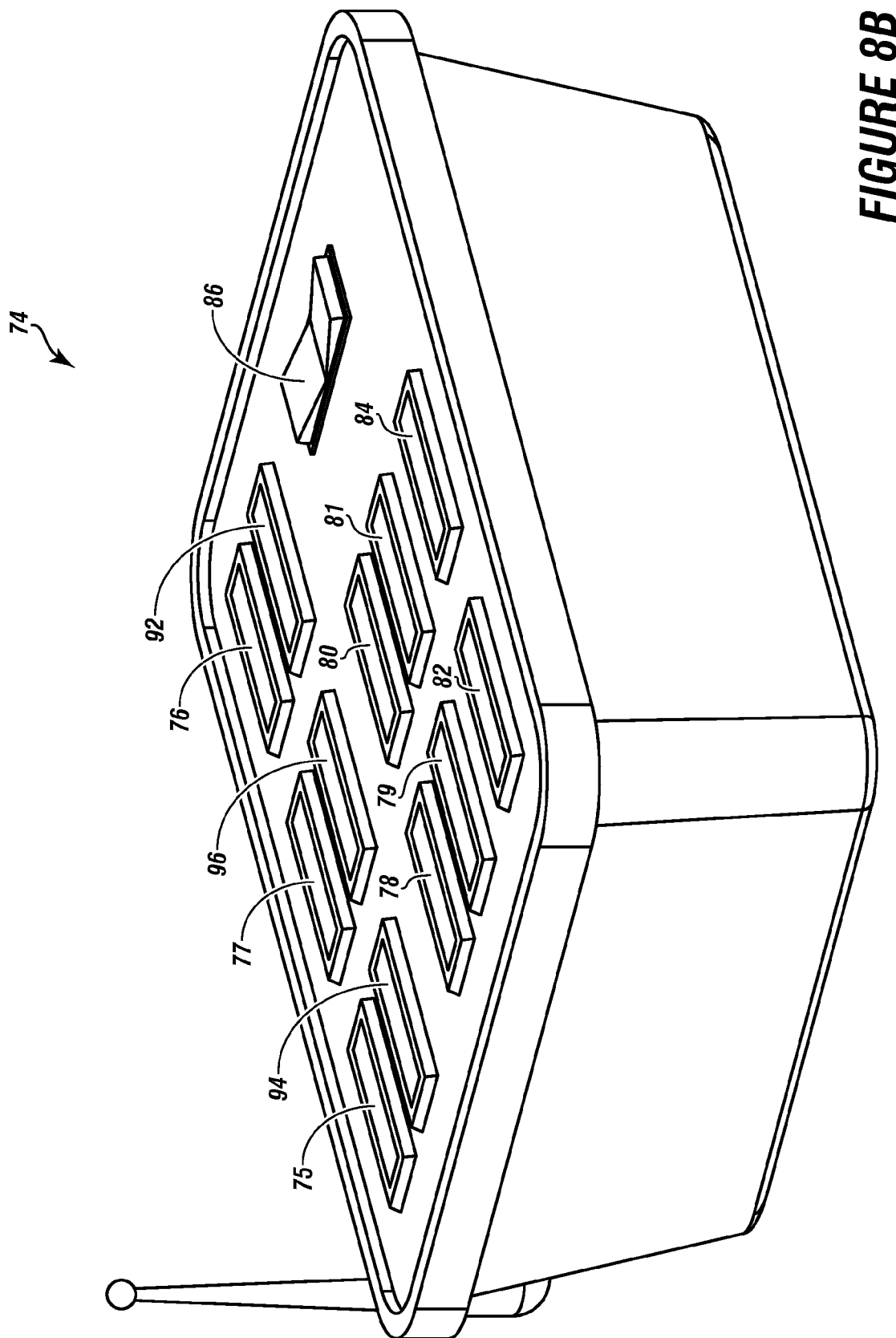
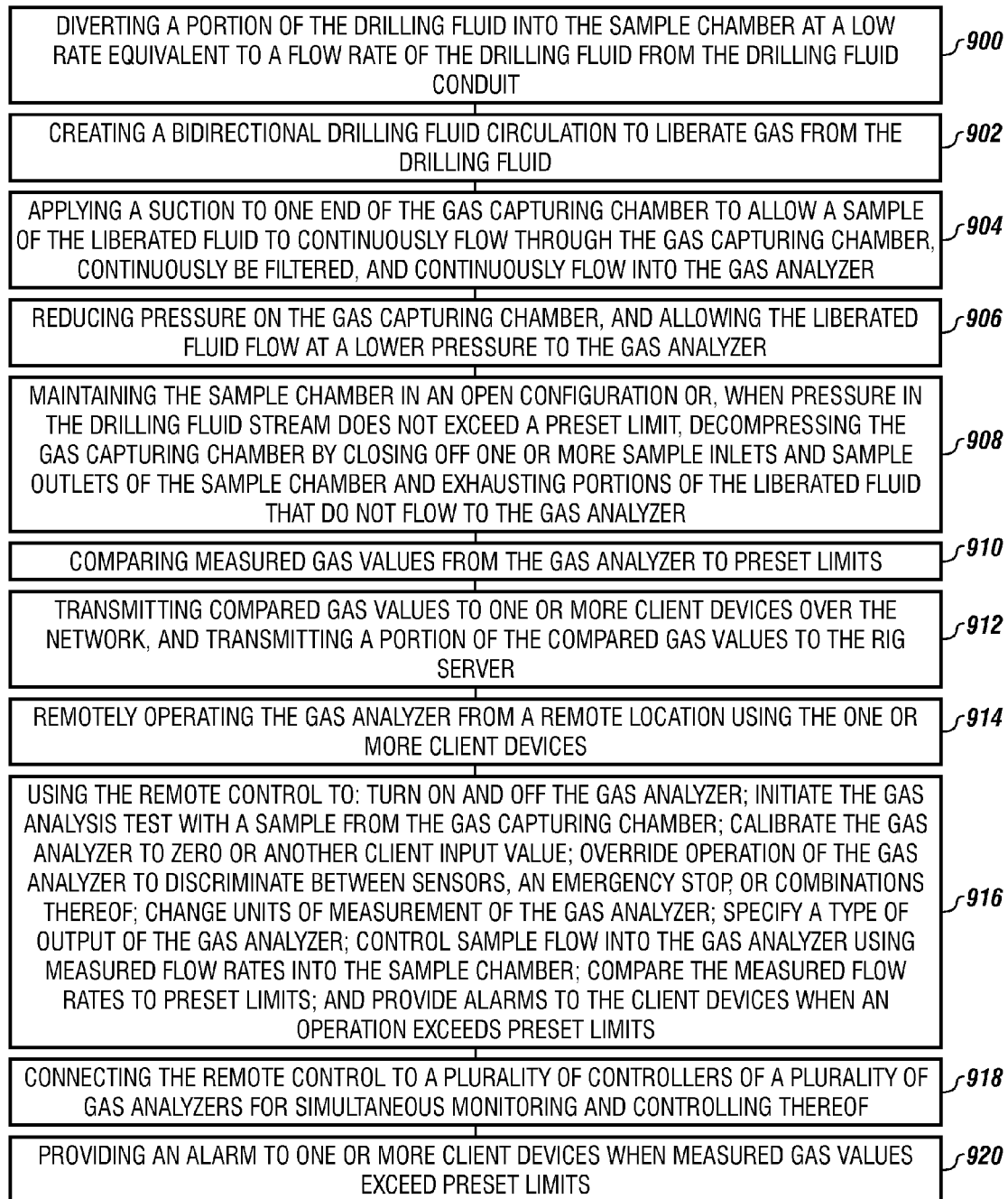
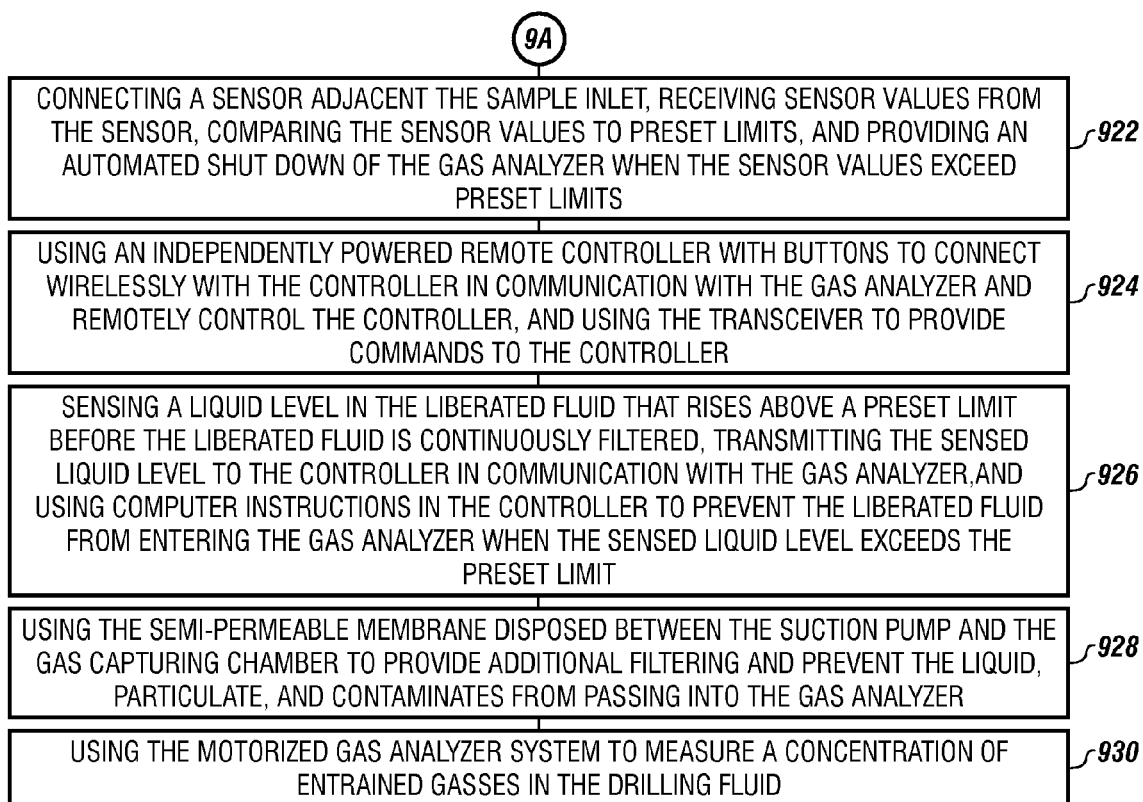


FIGURE 8B

FIGURE 9A

**FIGURE 9B**

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METHOD FOR CONTINUOUS GAS ANALYSIS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application claims priority to and the benefit of co-pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/625,376 filed on Apr. 17, 2012, entitled "METHOD FOR CONTINUOUS GAS ANALYSIS." This reference is hereby incorporated in its entirety.

FIELD

The present embodiments generally relate to a method for continuous gas analysis.

BACKGROUND

A need exists for a method for continuous gas analysis for use with natural gas wells, oil wells, and other wells that can potentially emit at least some gases or vapors.

A need exists for a method for continuous gas analysis that can analyze high pressure drilling fluid streams, while simultaneously providing for a quick and accurate analysis of a homogenous mixture of a drilling fluid stream.

A need exists for a method for continuous gas analysis that enables workers proximate to a drilling site to be immediately aware of a presence of combustible gases, such as hydrogen gas; thereby allowing the workers to take precautionary measures to prevent explosions or loss of life.

A need exists for a method for continuous gas analysis for sampling gases and vapors via a modular gas capturing component that is easy to manufacture, repair, and install in the field.

A need exists for a method for continuous gas analysis with a gas capturing component that is strong, able to stand up independently, and able to withstand physical impacts in the field.

A need exists for a method for continuous gas analysis that can be remotely monitored and controlled, such as in areas with terrorist activity; thereby reducing a potential for harm to workers.

The present embodiments meet these needs.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The detailed description will be better understood in conjunction with the accompanying drawings as follows:

FIG. 1 depicts the drilling rig having continuous gas analysis according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 2 depicts a detail of a gas analyzer system according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 3 depicts a motorized gas analyzer system according to one or more embodiments.

FIGS. 4A, 4B, and 4C depict detail views of a portion of a means for agitating and creating a vortex according to various embodiments.

FIG. 5 depicts a detail of a portion of a filtration means according to one or more embodiments.

FIGS. 6A and 6B depict a detail of a controller according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 7 depicts a client device according to one or more embodiments.

FIGS. 8A and 8B depict a remote controller according to one or more embodiments.

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FIGS. 9A and 9B depict an embodiment of the method according to one or more embodiments.

The present embodiments are detailed below with reference to the listed Figures.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Before explaining the present method in detail, it is to be understood that the method is not limited to the particular embodiments and that it can be practiced or carried out in various ways.

The present embodiments relate to a method for continuous gas analysis. The method can be a remote, positive pressure gas speciation method for gas from a drilling fluid.

The method can include diverting a portion of the drilling fluid into a sample chamber at a flow rate equivalent to a flow rate of the drilling fluid from a drilling fluid stream, such as a drilling fluid stream from a drilling rig.

The drilling rig can be a land based rig, semisubmersible rig, portable rig with self-propulsion, skid mounted rig, jack-up rig, tension leg platform rig, drilling ship rig, deep draft cession vessel rig, rotary drilling rig, single or simultaneously dual lifting drilling rig, or the like.

In one or more embodiments, the method can be used on a drilling rig configured for pneumatic drilling, foam drilling, oil based mud drilling, water based mud drilling, hydraulic drilling, or the like.

The method can be used on a drilling rig having a drill bit for drilling a wellbore through a formation. The wellbore can be for an oil well, a gas well, a water well, or another well.

The drilling rig can have a substructure for supporting the drilling rig above a surface, such as the ground. The drilling rig can include a base, which can be connected with the substructure.

The drilling rig can include a mast, which can be connected with the base. The mast can be a derrick.

The drilling rig can include a pipe handler engaged on the substructure.

The drilling rig can include a mud pump, which can be disposed below the substructure, such as on the surface. A drilling rig power source, such as a generator, can be in communication with the mud pump for providing power thereto.

The drilling rig can include drawworks disposed on the base and connected with cabling on the mast. A rotating head can be connected with the cabling and a blowout preventer.

A drill string can engage the blowout preventer and extend into the wellbore. The drill bit can be engaged with the drill string for drilling the wellbore.

The drilling rig can include a rig server having a rig processor and rig data storage for implementing rig operations. The rig server can be in communication with a network.

The network can be a satellite network, the internet, a cellular network, a combination of local area networks, a combination of wide area networks, another digital or analog network, a rig Wellsite Information Transfer Specification (WTIS) communication network, an infrared communication network, a radio frequency communication network, another global communication network, or the like.

The method can include providing fluid communication between the blowout preventer and a gas analyzer system using piping for providing real-time measurement of a concentration of gases in the drilling fluid.

The gas analyzer system can be a motorized gas analyzer system, non-motorized gas analyzer system, or combinations thereof.

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Real-time measurements taken by the gas analyzer system can include continuously or continually updated measurements. In one or more embodiments, each real-time measurement can be performed from about every five seconds to about every one minute, and can be continuously provided to a controller of the gas analyzer.

The concentration of the gases can be a concentration of dry gases, and can be measured in parts per million, parts per billion, a volumetric or weight percentage of individual gases relative to a total amount of liberated fluid, or another unit.

In one or more embodiments, the gases can be methane, ethane, propane, isobutane, butane, pentane, isopentane, neopentane, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, sulfur dioxide, hydrocarbon gas, hydrogen sulfide, helium, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, or combinations thereof.

The drilling fluid can include liquids with entrained gases, oil based muds, water based muds, other drilling muds from the wellbore, water, air with entrained gases resulting from air drilling, other gaseous carriers entrained with gases resulting from air drilling, liquid and gas mixtures, vapor and gas mixtures, mixtures of gases, particulate and gas mixtures, or combinations thereof.

The gas analyzer system can include a sample chamber, such as a manifold. The sample chamber can have one or more sample inlets and one or more sample outlets. For example, the sample chamber can have one sample inlet and two sample outlets.

The sample chamber can be made of polymer, steel, aluminum, or any metal or metal alloy.

The method can include providing fluid communication between the sample inlets and sample outlets and the drilling fluid stream, such as the piping from the drilling rig; thereby receiving the drilling fluid therefrom. In operation, the drilling fluid can flow via the drilling fluid stream through the sample inlet and into the sample chamber. The drilling fluid stream can have any flow rate.

The method can include creating a bidirectional drilling fluid circulation to liberate gas from the drilling fluid, such as by agitating and creating a vortex in the drilling fluid.

The means for agitating and creating a vortex can be disposed in the sample chamber or can be formed by the sample chamber. The means for agitating and creating a vortex can include the one or more sample outlets in the sample chamber, a direct current brushless motor, a pneumatic motor, an alternating current induction motor, a variable speed motor, an outlet with a regulated fluid level feature, or the like.

The method can include flowing the liberated fluid from the sample chamber to a gas capturing chamber for during agitation of the drilling fluid. For example, agitation via the means for agitating and creating a vortex can cause at least a portion of the gases in the drilling fluid to escape therefrom as the liberated fluid.

The gas capturing chamber can be made of polymer, steel, aluminum, or any metal or metal alloy.

The method can include providing fluid communication between the gas analyzer and the gas capturing chamber and reducing pressure on the gas capturing chamber to allow the liberated fluid to flow at a lower pressure to the gas analyzer.

The gas analyzer can be configured to provide real-time gas speciation of the liberated fluid. For example, the gas analyzer can be a gas chromatograph; a total gas analyzer; total hydrocarbon analyzer; totalizer; another instrument configured to measure different specific gases, such as carbon dioxide or hydrogen sulfide; another analytical instrument configured to determine speciation of gases; or the like.

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In operation, the liberated fluid can flow into the gas capturing chamber and into the gas analyzer, allowing the gas analyzer to detect a speciation of the liberated fluid.

The method can include applying a suction to one end of the gas capturing chamber to allow a sample of the liberated fluid to flow through the gas capturing chamber, be filtered, and continuously flow into a gas analyzer.

For example, the method can include pulling the liberated fluid from the sample chamber and into the gas analyzer using a suction pump, such as a 100 psi suction pump, in fluid communication with the gas analyzer. The suction pump can pump the liberated fluid at a flow rate ranging from about 1 standard cubic feet per hour (scfh) to about 10 scfh.

The method can include filtering the liberated fluid, such as by using a filtration means in fluid communication between the gas capturing chamber and the gas analyzer. The filtration means can include desiccant chambers with calcium chloride, silica gel, DRIERITE®, or the like.

The method can include exhausting analyzed gas from the gas analyzer, such as through an exhaust port on the gas analyzer. The analyzed gas can be released to the atmosphere or a containment tank. The analyzed fluid can be the liberated fluid that has been analyzed by the gas analyzer to produce the real-time gas speciation thereof.

The method can include exhausting non-analyzed fluid from the gas capturing chamber, such as through an exhaust line on the gas capturing chamber. The non-analyzed fluid can be exhausted to a drilling fluid storage chamber and back into the drilling fluid stream. The drilling fluid storage chamber can be a pit, possum belly, storage tank, ditch, or the like. The non-analyzed fluid can flow from the gas capturing chamber at any rate.

In operation, a sample of the drilling fluid can be captured from the wellbore at a point in which the drilling fluid is homogeneously mixed, and the liberated fluid, which can be a gas, liquid, or combinations thereof, can be formed therefrom.

The method can include receiving the drilling fluid without requiring any pre-filtering or pretreatment of the drilling fluid in the drilling fluid stream.

The filtering means can condition the liberated fluid, including removing moisture, contaminants, particulates, or combinations thereof from the liberated fluid. The filtering means can remove particulates having a diameter greater than five microns from the liberated fluid.

In one or more embodiments, the liberated fluid can be conditioned by desiccating moisture from a fluid conduit, mist separating using a mechanical separator, cooling using a heat exchanger, another conditioning means, or combinations thereof.

The method can include receiving the liberated fluid from the filtering means through tubing, such as 1/4 inch clear tubing having a 3/8 inch outer diameter and a length ranging from about 50 feet to about 75 feet.

The method can include using the gas analyzer to form measured gas values indicating the speciation of the liberated fluid. The speciation can include an identification of elemental or chemical components, such as an identification of C-1 to C-5 hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, helium, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, argon, other gaseous elements or molecules compounds typically found in drilling fluid streams, or combinations thereof.

In one or more embodiments, the method can include maintaining the sample chamber in an open configuration or, when pressure in the drilling fluid stream does not exceed a preset limit, decompressing the gas capturing chamber by closing off one or more sample inlets and outlets of the

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sample chamber and exhausting portions of the liberated fluid that do not flow to the gas analyzer.

The rig server, controller, or combinations thereof can transmit the measured gas values over the network to one or more client devices, which can be laptop computers, desktop computers, tablet computers, other computers, cellular phones, or the like.

Computer instructions on the client devices can allow the client devices to connect with the controller or a remote controller in communication with the controller to remotely monitor and control the gas analyzer system.

In one or more embodiments, the remote controller can be a pendant station that is in wired or wireless communication with the controller.

Each client device can have a client device processor in communication with a client device data storage having computer instructions to present an executive dashboard thereon.

The executive dashboard can provide for remote monitoring and control of the gas analyzer system. The client devices can enable users to simultaneously and remotely monitor and control multiple gas analyzer systems disposed at multiple locations via the executive dashboard.

The client devices can be used to receive, view, and store the measured gas values and other analysis information related to the liberated fluid, drilling fluid, and gas analyzer system. The client devices can also be used to provide control commands to the controller.

The rig server can be in communication with the network. The rig server can be located on or proximate the drilling rig, and can store and display on-demand analysis information related to the drilling fluid, liberated fluid, and gas analyzer system.

In one or more embodiments, the rig server can be a server, laptop computer, desktop computer, tablet computer, another computer, cellular phone, personal digital assistant, right mount server, programmable logic controller, or combinations thereof.

The rig server can include a rig processor in communication with a rig data storage, such as a hard drive, portable hard drive, flash drive, or other storage medium.

In one or more embodiments, the rig data storage can include computer instructions to provide an alarm to workers proximate to the drilling rig when analyzed gas samples show concentrations of components of the drilling fluid exceed preset limits.

The rig data storage can include computer instructions for broadcasting analysis information on components of the drilling fluid to one or more displays proximate the workers at the drilling rig, to client devices associated with each worker, to client devices associated with first responders, to client devices associated with other users, to the remote control, or combinations thereof.

In embodiments, the rig server can simultaneously transmit analysis information through two different gateway protocols via two different networks, such as a satellite network and a cellular data network.

In one or more embodiments, flow of the liberated fluid can be reversed, such that the gas capturing chamber flows the liberated fluid back into the drilling fluid stream. For example, if the gas capturing chamber is clogged, reversing the flow of the liberated fluid can unclog the gas capturing chamber. Reversing the flow of the liberated fluid can be done remotely or locally.

In embodiments, a valve, such as a four-way valve, can be disposed proximate a top of the gas capturing chamber for reversing the flow of the liberated fluid.

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In operation, when the four-way valve is in an off position, the gas capturing chamber can be in fluid communication with the gas analyzer, such that the liberated fluid flows from the gas capturing chamber into the gas analyzer.

When the four-way valve is in an on position, the gas capturing chamber can be in fluid communication with a compressed air source or ambient air, such that compressed air or ambient air can flow into the gas capturing chamber towards the drilling fluid stream; thereby unclogging the gas capturing chamber.

In one or more embodiments, an electronic relay can be in communication with the four-way valve and the controller. The electronic relay can be programmed to move the four-way valve between the on position and the off position at predefined time intervals for unclogging the gas capturing chamber.

The electronic relay can be in communication with the client devices through the network, such that users can remotely turn the four-way valve to the on position and the off position. The electronic relay can be manually actuated at the drilling site.

Turning now to the figures, FIG. 1 depicts the drilling rig having continuous gas analysis according to one or more embodiments.

A drilling rig 300 can have a substructure 301 for supporting a base 302 connected with the substructure 301. The base 302 can support a mast 303 connected with the base 302.

A pipe handler 304 can be disposed on a portion of the drilling rig 300, such as on the substructure 301.

A mud pump 305 can be disposed below the substructure 301 for circulating drilling fluid. A drilling rig power source 311 can be in communication with the mud pump 305 for providing power thereto.

The drilling rig 300 can have drawworks 306 on the base 302. The drawworks 306 can be connected with cabling 310 in the mast 303. The drilling rig 300 can include a rotating head 33 connected with the cabling 310 and a blowout preventer 312.

A drill string 308 can engage the blowout preventer 312 and extend into a wellbore 3. A drill bit 11 can be engaged with the drill string 308 for drilling the wellbore 3 through a formation 313.

A rig server 64 for implementing rig operations can be in communication with a network 46. The rig server 64 can have a rig processor 6 and a rig data storage 7.

A drilling fluid conduit 14, such as piping, can be in fluid communication between the blowout preventer 312 and a portion of a gas analyzer system 5 for providing real-time measurement of a concentration of gases in the drilling fluid using a first gas analyzer 22a. The gas analyzer system 5 can be a non-motorized gas analyzer system.

In operation, a user can receive real-time measurements from the gas analyzer system 5, such as once a second or once every four seconds.

One or more client devices 44a and 44b can be in communication with the rig server 64, a portion of the gas analyzer system 5, or combinations thereof through the network 46, allowing users 45a and 45b to remotely monitor and control the gas analyzer system 5.

The users 45a and 45b can use the client devices 44a and 44b to simultaneously access the real-time measurements continually, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

The users 45a and 45b can also simultaneously access and view historical data and updated real-time measurements using the client devices 44a and 44b.

The client devices 44a and 44b can provide the users 45a and 45b with graphical representations, digital representa-

tions, or combinations thereof of the historical data, the updated real-time measurements, or combinations thereof.

The historical data can include previously taken measurements from the gas analyzer system 5, and the updated real-time measurements can include the most recently taken measurements from the gas analyzer system 5.

In operation, the gas analyzer system 5 can perform calculations on sensed data multiple times per second for greater accuracy and time resolution.

One or more embodiments of the drilling rig 300 can include a second gas analyzer 22b in communication with a motorized gas analyzer system 41 configured to be remotely controlled for real-time measurement of the concentration of the gases in the drilling fluid. The motorized gas analyzer system 41 can be in communication with the network 46 and in fluid communication with the drilling fluid conduit 14. For example, the motorized gas analyzer system 41 can be disposed in a possum belly.

The gas analyzers 22a and 22b can each be motorized, non-motorized, or combinations thereof.

In one or more embodiments, a remote controller 74 can be in wired or wireless communication with the gas analyzer system 5 and the motorized gas analyzer system 41, such as through the network 46, for remotely controlling the gas analyzer system 5 and the motorized gas analyzer system 41.

FIG. 2 depicts a detail of the gas analyzer system according to one or more embodiments.

The gas analyzer system 5 can include a sample chamber 10a. The sample chamber 10a can have a sample inlet 12.

The sample inlet 12 can be in fluid communication with the drilling fluid conduit 14, which can be the piping from the drilling rig.

In operation, a drilling fluid 8 can flow from the drilling fluid conduit 14 into the sample inlet 12 and into the sample chamber 10a. The drilling fluid 8 can flow in the drilling fluid conduit 14 at a pressure of up to about 1000 psi.

The gas analyzer system 5 can include means for agitating and creating a vortex 39a and 39b, which can be return piping in fluid communication with the drilling fluid conduit 14, such as sample outlets of the sample chamber 10a.

The means for agitating and creating a vortex 39a and 39b can operate to form a vortex in the drilling fluid 8 within the sample chamber 10a, which can separate a portion of gas therefrom, forming a liberated fluid 20.

The liberated fluid 20 can flow from the sample chamber 10a through a valve 72, while the remaining drilling fluid 8 can flow back into the drilling fluid conduit 14 via the means for agitating and creating a vortex 39a and 39b.

The valve 72 can be in communication with the controller 34 for closing off the sample chamber 10a upon command.

During agitation of the drilling fluid 8, the liberated fluid 20 can flow from the valve 72 and through a t-fitting 43 and into a gas capturing chamber 18, or through the t-fitting 43 and into an exhaust line 30 for flowing a non-analyzed fluid 31 to a drilling fluid storage chamber 32, back into the drilling fluid conduit 14, or both. The non-analyzed fluid 31 can be portions of the liberated fluid 20 that are not analyzed by the gas analyzer system 5. The drilling fluid storage chamber 32 can be a pit, possum belly, storage tank, ditch, or the like.

In one or more embodiments, a venturi nozzle 35 can be on the exhaust line 30 for flowing the non-analyzed fluid 31 from the gas capturing chamber 18 to the drilling fluid storage chamber 32, drilling fluid conduit 14, or both.

A suction pump 23 can be in fluid communication between the gas capturing chamber 18 and a gas analyzer 22. The suction pump 23 can pull the liberated fluid 20 from the gas capturing chamber 18 and into the gas analyzer 22.

A semipermeable membrane 21 can be disposed between the suction pump 23 and the gas capturing chamber 18, such as within a portion of the gas capturing chamber 18, to provide additional filtering to the liberated fluid 20. The semipermeable membrane 21 can be made of a material configured to separate water or vapor from the liberated fluid 20, such as a thin film composite membrane, which can be constructed from two or more layers of materials.

A filtration means 24 can be in fluid communication between the gas capturing chamber 18 and the gas analyzer 22 for conditioning the liberated fluid 20. Conditioning the liberated fluid 20 can include drying the liberated fluid 20 and removing particulates and other contaminants from the liberated fluid 20.

The gas analyzer 22 can be in fluid communication with the gas capturing chamber 18 and configured to provide real-time gas speciation of the liberated fluid 20.

An exhaust port 26 on the gas analyzer 22 can release an analyzed fluid 28 therefrom.

The controller 34 can be in communication with the gas analyzer 22 for controlling the gas analyzer 22.

A power supply 49 can be in communication with the controller 34, the gas analyzer 22, and the suction pump 23 for providing power thereto. The power supply 49 can be a 120 volt power source, a solar power source, an AC/DC switching power supply, a generator, a wind turbine, or another power supply.

The controller 34 can be in communication with the network for communicating with the rig server, the client devices, the remote controller, the motorized gas analyzer system, or combinations thereof.

One or more embodiments can include a sensor 68 disposed adjacent the sample inlet 12 and in communication with the controller 34 for providing sensor values to the controller 34. The sensor 68 can be a flow sensor, pressure sensor, temperature sensor, sensor configured to measure viscosity of the drilling fluid 8, sensor configured to measure a percent of solids in the drilling fluid 8, or another type of sensor.

The controller 34 can use the sensor values to determine when the valve 72 needs to be shut, such as in emergencies. For example, when the sensor 68 is a pressure sensor the controller 34 can determine that the valve 72 needs to be shut when an over-pressurization exists; thereby stopping flow of the liberated gas 20 into the gas capturing chamber 18.

One or more embodiments can include a fluid level sensor 25 disposed between the suction pump 23 and the filtration means 24, and in communication with the controller 34 for sensing when liquid in the liberated fluid 20 rises above a preset limit. The fluid level sensor 25 can be adjacent the filtration means 24. The fluid level sensor 25 can transmit sensed fluid level values to the controller 34.

For example, the fluid level sensor 25 can include a chamber configured to collect fluid from the liberated fluid 20, and when the liquid collected from the liberated fluid 20 reaches the preset limit the fluid level sensor 25 can transmit a signal to the controller 34. The controller 34 can then open an ambient air valve 19 for drawing in ambient air instead of allowing flow of the liberated fluid 20 from the gas capturing chamber 18.

The ambient air valve 19 can be in fluid communication between the gas capturing chamber 18 and the suction pump 23. As such, liquid in the liberated fluid 20 can be prevented from flowing into the gas analyzer 22; thereby avoiding damage to the gas analyzer 22.

FIG. 3 depicts the motorized gas analyzer system according to one or more embodiments.

The motorized gas analyzer system **41** can include the sample chamber **10b** having the means for agitating and creating a vortex **39c**. The means for agitating and creating a vortex **39c** can include a motor **214** connected with an agitator shaft **216**.

In one or more embodiments, the motor **214** can be a direct current brushless motor, a pneumatic motor, an alternating current induction motor, a variable speed motor, or the like.

The means for agitating and creating a vortex **39c** can include a spout **9** with a regulated fluid level feature, such as a ballast tank **15** under positive pressure for regulating a fluid level of the drilling fluid **8**. The spout **9** can allow the drilling fluid **8** to exit the sample chamber **10b** when the drilling fluid **8** rises above a preset limit.

In one or more embodiments, the means for agitating and creating a vortex **39c** can be housed in an explosion-proof housing **59**.

A lifting device **91**, such as a motorized lifting device or agitator stand, can be attached to a portion of the motorized gas analyzer system **41** and to a tank **100** within which the motorized gas analyzer system **41** is disposed. The tank **100** can be the drilling fluid storage chamber, pit, possum belly, storage tank, ditch, or the like.

The lifting device **91** can operate to raise and lower the sample chamber **10b**, the motor **214**, and the agitator shaft **216** to ensure that the drilling fluid **8** in the sample chamber **10b** is at a proper level for liberation of the gases therefrom; thereby providing for consistent and constant analysis of the liberated fluid **20**. For example, the lifting device **91** can include a crank for raising and lowering the sample chamber **10b**.

The motorized gas analyzer system **41** can include the gas analyzer **22b** in fluid communication therewith for analyzing the liberated fluid **20**.

The controller **34** can have an up/down button **87** for communicating with the lifting device **91** to raise and lower the sample chamber **10b**. The controller **34** can be housed in a bullet-proof and water-tight housing **61**, which can be made of steel or the like.

FIG. 4A depicts a detail view of a portion of the means for agitating and creating a vortex according to one or more embodiments.

The motor **214** can be engaged with the agitator shaft **216a**. The motor **214** can be partially inserted into the agitator shaft **216a**, such as within an inner chamber **220** of the agitator shaft **216a**.

The inner chamber **220** can be configured to receive a portion of the motor **214**, allowing the motor **214** to rotate the agitator shaft **216a**.

The agitator shaft **216a** can have one or more pairs of blades **218a**, **218b**, **218c**, **218d**, **218e**, and **218f**. The blades **218a** and **218b** can form a pair of blades, the blades **218c** and **218d** can form a pair of blades, and the blades **218e** and **218f** can form a pair of blades.

Each pair of blades can be offset from adjacent pairs of blades by ninety degrees. For example, the pair of blades **218c** and **218d** can be offset from the pair of blades **218a** and **218b** by ninety degrees and from the pair of blades **218e** and **218f** by ninety degrees. Each blade **218a-218f** can be a rubber or metal cylinder.

FIG. 4B depicts a detail view of a portion of the means for agitating and creating a vortex according to one or more embodiments.

The motor **214** can be engaged with the agitator shaft **216b**, such as within the inner chamber **220** of the agitator shaft **216b**.

The agitator shaft **216b** can have one or more blades **218g**, **218h**, and **218i**, which can be formed in a crow's foot configuration. Each blade **218g-218i** can be a rubber or metal cylinder.

FIG. 4C depicts a detail view of a portion of the means for agitating and creating a vortex according to one or more embodiments.

The motor **214** can be engaged with the agitator shaft **216c**, such as within an inner chamber **220** of the agitator shaft **216c**.

The agitator shaft **216c** can have one or more blades **218j**, **218k**, **218l**, and **218m** arranged in a pitch fork configuration. Each blade **218j-218m** can be a rubber or metal cylinder.

FIG. 5 depicts a portion of the filtration means according to one or more embodiments.

The filtration means can include a cooler/dryer **200** configured to refrigerate the liberated fluid **20a**, causing condensed liquid **1** to drop out from the liberated fluid **20a**.

The cooler/dryer **200** can include a housing **201** with an inlet **202** for receiving the liberated fluid **20a** from the sample chamber, such as when the liberated fluid **20a** is at an elevated temperature.

A cooling coil **206**, which can be made of copper, can be in fluid communication with the inlet **202**, allowing the liberated fluid **20a** to enter the cooling coil **206** and cool while the liberated fluid **20a** passes to a drop out chamber **208**. The cooling coil **206** can have a length sufficient to allow the liberated fluid **20a** to cool enough to allow water or other liquids to condense therefrom.

The drop out chamber **208** can receive cooled liberated fluid **20b** and the condensed liquid **1** therefrom.

A dry gas out **212** can allow the liberated fluid **20b** to pass from the drop out chamber **208** to the gas analyzer.

One or more embodiments can include a maintenance valve arrangement **2**, such as a four way valve or a combination of valves. The maintenance valve arrangement **2** can be opened to allow the liberated fluid **20b** to flow via a first flow path **4a** and allow the condensed liquid **1** to collect in the drop out chamber **208**.

The maintenance valve arrangement **2** can be closed to allow the liberated fluid **20b** to flow via a second flow path **4b** to bypass the drop out chamber **208**, allowing the drop out chamber **208** to be drained.

The drop out chamber **208** can have a drain valve **16** for draining the condensed liquid **1** and an air valve **17** for receiving ambient or pressurized air to allow flow of the condensed liquid **1** from the drop out chamber **208**.

FIGS. 6A-6B depict a detail of the controller according to one or more embodiments.

The controller **34** can include a processor **36** in communication with a data storage **38**.

The data storage **38** can include computer instructions to compare measured gas values in the gas analyzer to preset limits stored in the data storage, forming compared gas values **40**.

The measured gas values **51**, preset limits **55a**, and compared gas values **57** can be stored in the data storage **38**.

The data storage **38** can include computer instructions to transmit compared gas values from the controller to a client device over the network **42**.

The data storage **38** can include computer instructions to remotely operate the gas analyzer using the controller from a location distant to the gas analyzer **48**.

The data storage **38** can include computer instructions to turn on and off the gas analyzer **50**.

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The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to initiate a gas analysis test with a sample of the liberated fluid from the sample chamber to provide the real-time gas speciation 52.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to initiate a leak/integrity test to provide an instrument check by injecting a small amount of a non-combustible detectable hydrocarbon gas at a low rate of flow into the sample chamber to determine if a predetermined value from the gas analyzer is achieved for verifying integrity of the gas analyzer system, including an absence of leaks in the gas analyzer system 53.

The non-combustible detectable hydrocarbon gas can be methane, propane, other gases, or mixtures thereof. The leak/integrity test can be implemented using 10 pound or 20 pound bottles of the non-combustible detectable hydrocarbon gas, or any other sized bottle.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to calibrate the gas analyzer to zero or span 54.

For example, a client input value with a known value of gas can be used to calibrate the gas analyzer.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to override operation of the gas analyzer via the controller 56.

For example, the gas analyzer can be overridden for safety during replacement of sensors.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to change units of measurement of the gas analyzer 58.

For example, the units can be changed between parts per million, parts per billion, percent by weight, percent by volume, or the like.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to control sample flow into the gas analyzer using measured flow rates, and to compare the measured flow rates to preset limits 60.

For example, the sample flow can be controlled by opening, closing, or adjusting one or more valves.

The measured flow rates 73 and the preset limits 55b can be stored in the data storage 38.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to configure the controller to enable or disable a satellite communication when a satellite communication on/off button is actuated 63.

For example, the satellite communication on/off button can be actuated on the remote controller.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to configure the controller to enable or disable a communication to a local area network when a local area network on/off button is actuated 65.

For example, the local area network on/off button can be actuated on the remote controller.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to configure the controller to enable or disable a rig WITS communication when a WITS communication on/off button is actuated 69.

For example, the WITS communication on/off button can be actuated on the remote controller.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions for providing an alarm to the client device when the measured gas values exceed the preset limits 66.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to receive sensor values, compare the sensor values to preset limits, and provide an automated shut down of the gas analyzer system when the sensor values exceed the preset limits 77.

For example, the gas analyzer system can be automatically shut down by closing one or more valves in response to sensor values.

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The sensor values 85 and the preset limits 55c can be stored in the data storage 38.

The data storage 38 can include computer instructions to prevent the drilling fluid from entering the gas capturing chamber and entering the gas analyzer when the sensed fluid level values exceed the preset limit 71.

For example, the drilling fluid can be prevented from entering the gas capturing chamber and the gas analyzer by closing the ambient air valve. The sensed fluid levels 27 and the preset limits 55d can be stored in the data storage 38.

FIG. 7 depicts the client device according to one or more embodiments.

The client device 44 can include a client device processor 47 in communication with a client device data storage 37.

The client device data storage 37 can include computer instructions to configure the client device to communicate with a plurality of controllers for controlling a plurality of gas analyzers, providing for simultaneous monitoring and controlling thereof 62.

FIGS. 8A and 8B depict the remote controller according to one or more embodiments.

The remote controller 74 can include a remote control processor 89 and a transceiver 90 in communication with the remote control processor 89.

The transceiver 90 can be configured to communicate with the controller, such as through the network. In one or more embodiments, the transceiver 90 can be an infrared communication device, a client server device, a cellular communication device, a radio frequency communication device, or an internet based communication device.

The remote controller 74 can include a remote control power supply 88, such as a battery.

The remote controller 74 can include buttons configured to communicate with the controller via the transceiver 90 for executing the computer instructions in the data storage of the controller.

The buttons on the remote controller 74 can include a remote on/off button 75 configured to turn on and off the remote controller 74; an on/off button 76 configured to initiate operation of the means for agitating and creating a vortex; an on/off gas analyzer button 77 for turning the gas analyzer on and off; a start gas analysis button 78 for initiating the real-time gas speciation; a start leak/integrity test button 79 for initiating a leak integrity test; a start calibration to zero button 80 for initiating calibration of the gas analyzer at zero; a start calibration to span button 81 for initiating calibration of the gas analyzer to span; a safety override button 82 for shutting the gas analyzer system down by closing one or more valves; a change output units of measure button 84 for changing units of measurement of the gas analyzer; a control sample flow button 86 for opening, closing, or adjusting one or more valves to control flow of the liberated fluid; a satellite communication on/off button 92 for enabling or disabling a satellite communication; a local area network on/off button 94 for enabling or disabling communication with a local area network; and a WITS communication on/off button 96 for enabling or disabling a rig WITS communication.

The rig WITS communication can be used for connecting WITS software for transfer of data from the gas analyzer to the rig server.

FIGS. 9A and 9B depict an embodiment of a remote, positive pressure gas speciation method for gas from a drilling fluid, such as air.

The method can include diverting a portion of the drilling fluid into the sample chamber at a flow rate equivalent to a flow rate of the drilling fluid from the drilling fluid conduit, as illustrated by box 900.

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For example, the rotating head on the blowout preventer over a well annulus can be used to at least partially seal an annulus of the well and divert gas from the wellbore through the drilling fluid stream to the sample chamber.

The method can include creating a bidirectional drilling fluid circulation to liberate gas from the drilling fluid, as illustrated by box 902.

For example, the bidirectional drilling fluid circulation can be created using the means for agitating and creating a vortex, and the means for agitating and creating a vortex can be the one or more outlets of the sample chamber.

The method can include applying a suction to one end of the gas capturing chamber to allow a sample of the liberated fluid to continuously flow through the gas capturing chamber, continuously be filtered, and continuously flow into the gas analyzer, as illustrated by box 904.

The suction can be applied with the suction pump.

The method can include reducing pressure on the gas capturing chamber, and allowing the liberated fluid flow at a lower pressure to the gas analyzer, as illustrated by box 906.

The method can include maintaining the sample chamber in an open configuration or, when pressure in the drilling fluid stream does not exceed a preset limit, decompressing the gas capturing chamber by closing off one or more sample inlets and sample outlets of the sample chamber and exhausting portions of the liberated fluid that do not flow to the gas analyzer, as illustrated by box 908.

In one or more embodiments, the drilling fluid stream can be pitched less than 45 degrees and greater than 5 degrees as measured from a horizontal. The one or more sample inlets and sample outlets can be installed at a flashpoint of the liberated fluid.

The method can include comparing measured gas values from the gas analyzer to preset limits, as illustrated by box 910.

The method can include transmitting compared gas values to one or more client devices over the network, and transmitting a portion of the compared gas values to the rig server, as illustrated by box 912.

The method can include remotely operating the gas analyzer from a remote location using the one or more client devices, as illustrated by box 914.

For example, the gas analyzer can be remotely operated over a wireless or wired network.

The method can include using the remote control to: turn on and off the gas analyzer; initiate the gas analysis test with a sample from the gas capturing chamber; calibrate the gas analyzer to zero or another client input value; override operation of the gas analyzer to discriminate between sensors, an emergency stop, or combinations thereof; change units of measurement of the gas analyzer; specify a type of output of the gas analyzer; control sample flow into the gas analyzer using measured flow rates into the sample chamber; compare the measured flow rates to preset limits; and provide alarms to the client devices when an operation exceeds preset limits, as illustrated by box 916.

The method can include connecting the remote control to a plurality of controllers of a plurality of gas analyzers for simultaneous monitoring and controlling thereof, as illustrated by box 918.

The method can include providing an alarm to one or more client devices when measured gas values exceed preset limits, as illustrated by box 920.

For example, the method can include providing a graphical display on the remote control, the client devices, or combinations thereof, which can present the alarm.

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The method can include connecting a sensor adjacent the sample inlet, receiving sensor values from the sensor, comparing the sensor values to preset limits, and providing an automated shut down of the gas analyzer when the sensor values exceed preset limits, as illustrated by box 922.

The method can include using an independently powered remote controller with buttons to connect wirelessly with the controller in communication with the gas analyzer and remotely control the controller, and using the transceiver to provide commands to the controller, as illustrated by box 924.

The method can include sensing a liquid level in the liberated fluid that rises above a preset limit before the liberated fluid is continuously filtered, transmitting the sensed liquid level to the controller in communication with the gas analyzer, and using computer instructions in the controller to prevent the liberated fluid from entering the gas analyzer when the sensed liquid level exceeds the preset limit, as illustrated by box 926.

The method can include using the semi-permeable membrane disposed between the suction pump and the gas capturing chamber to provide additional filtering and prevent the liquid, particulate, and contaminants from passing into the gas analyzer, as illustrated by box 928.

The method can include using the motorized gas analyzer system to measure a concentration of entrained gases in the drilling fluid, as illustrated by box 930.

The motorized gas analyzer system can be in communication with one of a plurality of controllers of a plurality of gas analyzers, and can be configured for remote control.

While these embodiments have been described with emphasis on the embodiments, it should be understood that within the scope of the appended claims, the embodiments might be practiced other than as specifically described herein.

What is claimed is:

1. A remote, positive pressure speciation method for a sample from a drilling fluid, the method comprising:

- a. diverting a portion of the drilling fluid from a drilling fluid stream at a flow rate equivalent to a flow rate of the drilling fluid from a wellbore into a sample chamber;
- b. creating a drilling fluid circulation to form a liberated fluid from the sample from the drilling fluid in the sample chamber using a means for agitating;
- c. applying a suction to a gas capturing chamber fluidly connected to the sample chamber, wherein the suction is applied on one end of the gas capturing chamber to allow the liberated fluid to continuously flow through the gas capturing chamber, continuously be filtered, and continuously flow into a gas analyzer;
- d. reducing pressure on the gas capturing chamber to allow the liberated fluid to flow at a lower pressure than the drilling fluid coming from the wellbore to the gas analyzer; and
- e. using a valve to maintain the sample chamber in an open configuration or, when pressure in the drilling fluid stream does not exceed a preset limit, closing off one or more sample inlets, sample outlets or combinations thereof of the sample chamber, and exhausting portions of the liberated fluid as non-analyzed fluid that do not flow to the gas analyzer.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the drilling fluid circulation is created using the means for agitating that creates a vortex.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the means for agitating that creates the vortex comprises the sample outlets of the sample chamber.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the drilling fluid comprises air.

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5. The method of claim 1, further comprising using a rotating head on a blowout preventer over a well annulus of the wellbore to at least partially seal an annulus of the wellbore and divert gas from the wellbore through the drilling fluid stream to the sample chamber.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample inlets and sample outlets are installed at a flashpoint of the liberated fluid.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the suction is applied with a suction pump.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising comparing measured gas values from the gas analyzer to preset limits.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising transmitting compared gas values to one or more client devices over a network.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein at least a portion of the compared gas values are transmitted to a rig server.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising remotely operating the gas analyzer from a remote location using the one or more client devices.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the gas analyzer is remotely operated over a wireless or wired network.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising using a remote control to perform a member of the group consisting of:

- a. turn on and off the gas analyzer;
- b. initiate a gas analysis test with a sample from the gas capturing chamber;
- c. calibrate the gas analyzer to zero or another client input value;
- d. override operation of the gas analyzer to discriminate between sensors, an emergency stop, or combinations thereof;
- e. change units of measurement of the gas analyzer;
- f. specify a type of output of the gas analyzer;
- g. control liberated fluid flow into the gas analyzer using measured flow rates into the sample chamber;
- h. compare the measured flow rates to preset limits;
- i. provide alarms to the client devices when an operation exceeds a preset limit; and
- j. combinations thereof.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising connecting the remote control to a plurality of controllers of a plurality of gas analyzers for simultaneous monitoring and controlling thereof.

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15. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing a graphical display on the remote control.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an alarm to one or more client devices when measured gas values exceed preset limits.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising connecting a sensor adjacent to the one or more sample inlets, receiving sensor values from the sensor with a controller of the gas analyzer, comparing the sensor values to preset limits, and providing an automated shut down of the gas analyzer when the sensor values exceed the preset limits.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising, before the liberated fluid is continuously filtered, sensing a liquid level in the liberated fluid that rises above a preset limit, transmitting the sensed liquid level to a controller in communication with the gas analyzer, and using computer instructions in the controller to prevent the liberated fluid from entering the gas analyzer when the sensed liquid level exceeds the preset limit.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising using a semi-permeable membrane disposed between a suction pump and the gas capturing chamber to provide additional filtering and prevent liquid, particulate, and contaminants in the liberated fluid from passing into the gas analyzer.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising using a motorized gas analyzer system configured for remote control to measure a concentration of gases entrained in the sample from the drilling fluid, wherein the motorized gas analyzer system is in communication with a controller.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein:

- a. the gas analyzer system is a non-motorized gas analyzer system; or
- b. the gas analyzer system is a motorized gas analyzer system comprising the means for agitating, wherein the means for agitating comprises:
 - (i) a motor connected with an agitator shaft;
 - (ii) a spout in fluid communication with the sample chamber;
 - (iii) a ballast tank under positive pressure for regulating a fluid level in the sample chamber; and
 - (iv) a lifting device attached to the sample chamber to raise and lower the sample chamber.

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